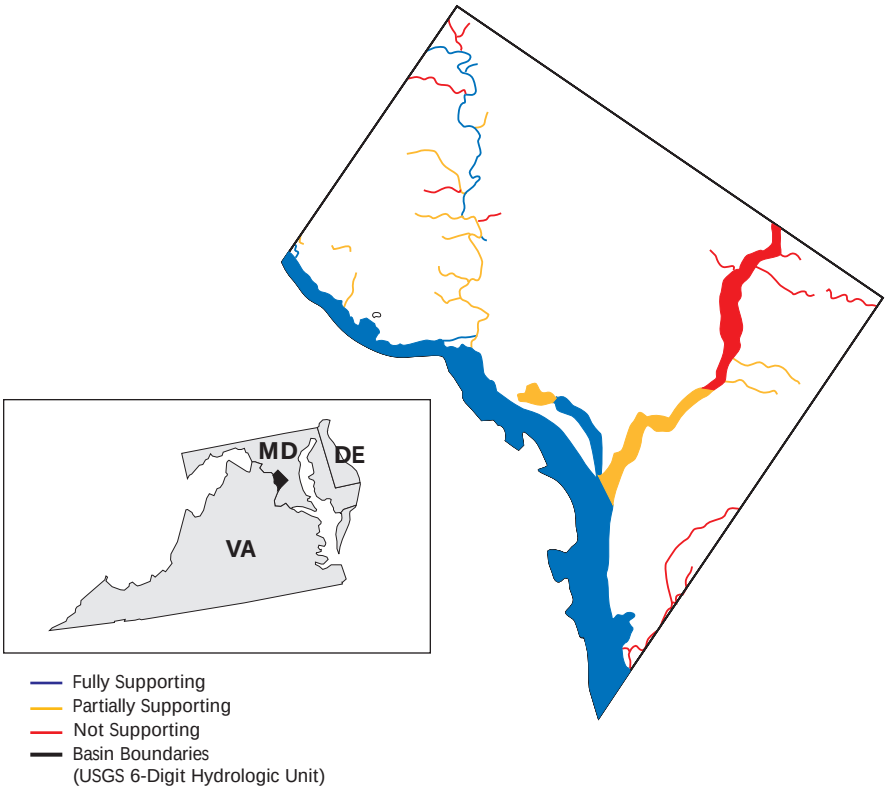
District of Columbia



- Fully Supporting
- Partially Supporting
- Not Supporting
- Basin Boundaries (USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

For a copy of the District of Columbia 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

There has not been a drastic change in the poor water quality of the District of Columbia within the past 2 years. However, until CSOs are controlled in the District of Columbia, major changes in the quality of its waterbodies probably will not be seen. The District of Columbia sees some positive signs. For example, submerged aquatic vegetation (underwater grasses) is now found in places where there was little or none before. Also, waters are increasingly used for recreational fishing and the abundance and diversity of the fishery has improved.

As the focus of water quality studies has shifted to toxic pollutants and biological indicators, waterbodies that were at least partially supporting some of their designated uses in the past are now not supporting those uses. Although the results of these studies are not favorable, better information and management of these pollutants and their effect is better for the health of both the citizens and the aquatic resources of the District of Columbia. A fish consumption advisory remains in effect for all District surface waters, and sediment contamination degrades aquatic life on the Anacostia River. Urban runoff may be the source of high concentrations of cadmium, mercury, lead, PCBs, PAHs, and DDT found in sediment samples. Combined sewer overflows are the main source of bacterial pollution that causes unsafe swimming conditions and a consequent swimming ban.

Ground Water Quality

Ground water, though of potable quality, is not the drinking water source for the District of Columbia. However, its quality is a concern as it contributes to the rivers' base flows. Sources of contamination are diverse (above- and underground storage tanks, landfills, hazardous waste generators, and urban runoff) and numerous in relative terms. Various activities are in place or under development to protect and enhance the quality of ground water.

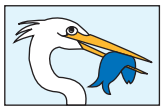
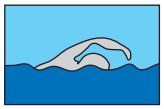
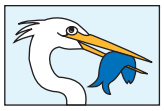
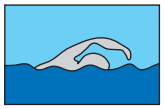
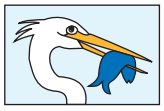
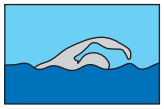
Programs to Restore Water Quality

The District is implementing innovative stormwater runoff controls for urban areas and promoting the watershed protection approach to clean up waterbodies that cross political boundaries, such as the Anacostia River. The District needs Maryland's cooperation to control pollution entering upstream tributaries located in Maryland. Additional funds will be needed to implement urban stormwater retrofits, CSO controls, and revegetation projects in both the District and Maryland to improve water quality in the Anacostia River.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The District performs monthly physical and chemical sampling at 80 fixed stations on the Potomac River, the Anacostia River, and their tributaries. The District samples phytoplankton (microscopic plants) monthly at 15 stations and zooplankton at 3 stations. The District samples metals in the water column four times a year and analyzes toxic pollutants in fish tissue once a year.

Individual Use Support in District of Columbia

Designated Use[a]		Percent				
		Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Poor (Not Attainable)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 39)[b]						
	Total Miles Surveyed: 39	15	0	45	40	0
	39	0	0	-	100	-
	39	0	0	0	72	28
Lakes (Total Acres = 238)						
	Total Acres Surveyed: 238	11	0	45	43	0
	238	0	0	0	100	0
	238	0	0	0	100	0
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 6.1)						
	Total Square Miles Surveyed: 5.8	86	0	9	5	0
	5.8	0	0	0	100	0
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5.8	0	0	0	100	0

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of District of Columbia's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the District's 305(b) report for a full description of the District's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.